ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

ON Thursday, September 12, the President's address was delivered. The address was followed by craniological papers.

Sir W. H. Flower exhibited four skulls of the aboriginal inhabitants of Jamaica, who had disappeared before the English occupation in the seventeenth century. They resemble the Carib type, and have been more or less markedly deformed during life.

The President, in the absence of Dr. J. G. Garson, gave an account of the physical characteristics of the "New Race" lately discovered in Egypt. Some 200 skulls were secured, and parts of 400–500 skeletons. The average index of length lies between 73 and 75; the alveolar index shows three predominant types, about 94, 96, and 99·5, which are confirmed by the male and female indices taken separately, and indicate a mixture of races. The nasal index is 54; wider than the European (47), and Egyptian and Guanche types (49), which are thus excluded. The great excess, especially from one of the sites explored, of female skulls of very small capacity is explained by supposing a segregation of a part of the race, and subsequent marriage of the smaller-headed women into the normal branch. The well-known decrease of cranial capacity in tropical, as compared with arctic and temperate races, suggests that the new race originated in tropical Africa. But the type of skull appears to be distinct from that of the negro; and the hair which has been found is either straight or wavy.

Each afternoon of the meeting was devoted to a lantern lecture of a somewhat more popular kind than the morning's work. On Thursday the President described the remains and civilisation of the "New Race" in Egypt, whose physical features had been already examined.

Several rites were discovered this winter between Ballas and Nagada, near Thebes, of an entirely un-Egyptian character. All the pottery was hand-made, though the potter's wheel had long been known in Egypt; and though metal was not entirely unknown, the great majority of the implements were of very delicately worked flint. The long knife-blades, and the forked spear-heads with peculiar hafting, for bringing down running deer, are particularly notable. Very beautifully formed jars of hard stone, with perforated ears for suspension, are also a characteristic manufacture, and are imitated in clay with painted marbling, and also later by the native Egyptians. Extensive cemeteries have been explored, and the manner of interment has been determined: the bodies were buried on one side in a contracted posture, with many vessels and other funeral furniture, and with "a great burning" as part of the ceremony. This, and the peculiar physical type of the people seem to connect them with the ancient Amorites of Southern Palestine; while, on the other hand, they seem to have invaded Egypt from the Libyan Desert, and to belong closely to the early inhabitants of the north coast of Africa. The date of their occupation of Egypt is fixed by the interposition of their tombs between those of sixth and twelfth dynasty Egyptians; so that their presence explains the fall of the Pyramid-Building dynasty, and the gap which has been observed at this point in the sequence of Egyptian history.

On Friday, Mr. H. W. Seton-Karr exhibited a large series of flint implements from Somali-land, and of illustrative photographs. The flint is of local origin, and a number of factories has been identified.

Mr. W. J. Knowles sent a "striated flint implement" from the North of Ireland, which gave rise to some discussion as to its origin.

Mr. B. Harrison contributed a report on the plateau flints of North Kent.

Mr. H. Stopes exhibited graving tools from the terrace-gravels of the Thames Valley and Palæolithic projectiles. In discussion, however, the human workmanship of some of the specimens was called in question.

The President gave a demonstration, with numerous illustrations, of flint and metal working in ancient Egypt. The earliest implements in Egypt are of Palæolithic types, found undisturbed and deeply stained by exposure, on the surface of the desert, 800-1200 feet above the Nile Valley. More advanced workmanship, with long parallel flaking, appears in the gravels of the Nile, 30 feet above the river. No intermediate stages are known between these and the rectangular-faced flakes of the fourth dynasty. The "New Race" which overthrew the Pyramid-builders surpassed all known flint-workers in the length, flatness, and regularity of their knives, javelin-heads, and sickle-flints. Bangles and other ornaments of great delicacy were made of the same flint. Under the XII. dynasty straight-backed and curved knives, adzes, axes with lugs, scrapers and sickles of native workmanship occur; but under the XVIII. dynasty, after another period of eclipse, bronze is found to have superseded flint. Flint implements, however, of a coarser kind, continued to be used as late as the fourth century A.D.

Metal-working is first found under the III. dynasty, and copper tools are habitually used under the IV. for mason's work; copper needles were also in use. Only one sample of bronze is known of this age; the rest are of pure copper. The "New Race," though devoted to stonework, produced occasional fine copper implements; one notable dagger is of an "Ægean" type. Under XII. dynasty, copper is still predominant, and much commoner; tempered with copper oxide and with arsenic. Bronze begins with XVIII. dynasty. Silver and gold are well worked from an early period; almost absent from "New Race" graves, which, however, seem to have been rifled. Iron has not been found earlier than foreign, mostly Greek deposits of XXVI. dynasty (650–550 B.C.). Earlier supposed allusions to "iron" in inscriptions really refer to "bronze."

Mr. H. Swainson Cowper gave a lantern lecture on the Senams, or megalithic monuments of Tripoli, of which he has visited nearly sixty. Rectangular enclosures of good masonry are associated with trilithons like those of Stonehenge, but with very narrow apertures between the jambs; the height varies from 6 to 15 feet. They are erected on footing stones, and are apparently designed to hold additional superstructures of wood. The forms of the stones themselves also sometimes recall carpentry types, which in so treeless a country are remarkable. A massive stone altar, often grooved, and level with the ground, sometimes stands in front of a trilithon. The few sculptures associated with the Senams are of Roman style, with Phallic subjects; but are not necessarily contemporary with the monuments themselves. The Senams appear to have been objects of worship, and usually stand upon hill-tops. Mr. Swainson Cowper suggests that they are analogous to the "Asherah" of the Old Testament, and to similar structures represented on Babylonian cylinders.

Mr. W. J. Lewis Abbott sent a report on the Hastings kitchen midden. The fissures in the sandstone cliffs at Hastings have been used as dwellings in Neolithic times, and the refuse, containing numerous flakes, implements, and fragments of pottery, has accumulated in front of their openings.

Saturday.—Ethnology.—The tenth report of the Committee on the North-Western Tribes of Canada was presented. This Committee was appointed at the Montreal Meeting 1884, and has published, hitherto, the following important memoirs in its reports to the British Association:—

Introduction (Report VII.). Sir Daniel Wilson.
Circular of Inquiry (III.).
North American Ethnology (V.). Mr. Horatio Hale.
Linguistic Ethnology (VIII.). Mr. Horatio Hale.
Physical Characteristics (VII.). Dr. Franz Boas.
The Blackfoot Indians (I.). Mr. Horatio Hale.
The Blackfoot Indians (II.). Rev. E. F. Wilson.
The Sarcee Indians (IV.). Rev. E. F. Wilson.
The Kootenay Indians (VIII.). Dr. A. F. Chamberlain.
Ethnology of British Columbia (V.). Mr. Horatio Hale.
Notes on Indians of British Columbia (IV.). Dr. Franz Boas.
Reports on Indians of British Columbia (V.-X.). Dr. Franz Boas.

The report now presented contains a further account of the physical characteristics of the tribes of the North Pacific Coast; notes on the Tinneh Tribe of Nicola Valley, by Mr. James Teit; on the Tinneh Tribe of Portland Canal, and on the Nass River Indians, by Dr. Boas; and the grammar and vocabulary of the Nĭsk·á and Tsetsā'ut languages.

Much, however, remains to be done in order to give a satisfactory review of the anthropology, even of British Columbia: in particular, the influence of the tribes of Millbank Sound on their neighbours; the highly developed art of the Haida, and the complicated symbolic and conventional ornaments; and the peculiar distribution of physical types need further elucidation.

The Committee has accordingly been reappointed with a grant of £100, in order to enable Dr. Boas to continue his important investigations.

Captain S. L. Hinde read a paper on the cannibal tribes of

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the Congo. Cannibalism is in his experience in this region almost universal, on the increase, and peculiarly inveterate. An extensive traffic in human flesh prevails, and slaves as well as prisoners are kept and sold for food. Even corpses are disinterred in spite of charms on the graves; the flesh is always cooked or smoked, but is not here eaten from any religious or superstitious motive. The practice of filing the front teeth is not found to be coextensive with that of cannibalism.

Mr. Darnell Davis derived the name "cannibal" from the Caribs of the West Indies, who, however, are not man-eaters; Mr. Elworthy discussed the theory of cannibalism as a means to acquire the properties of the thing eaten; and Mr. Hartland the survivals, in Europe, of ceremonial and sepulchral cannibalism.

Captain Hinde also described the pigmies of Central Africa, nomadic hunters, of less than four feet stature.

Mr. A. Montefiore gave an account of the Samoyads of the Arctic Tundras.

Reports were presented by the Committees on physical deviations of children from the normal, and on anthropometric measurements in schools.

The anthropometric laboratory, which is usually organised during meetings of the Association, was not this year available.

On Monday, Mr. Elworthy read a paper on horns of honour, dishonour, and safety. The head is the object of honour, and is adorned with symbolic attributes. Horns are symbolic of the crescent-goddess; so of divine power, protection and favour in general. Conversely, to "scorn" (French *écorner*) is to deprive of such horns and prestige. The paper gave rise to some comment. Not all horns are crescent-symbols; most were originally worn attached to skins; ornaments are decorative first, symbolic afterwards.

Mrs. Grove discussed the religious origin of dances, as forms of magic or worship. Weapon-dances arise from worship of weapons, or of an armed deity; ritual dances from the love of dancing attributed to the deity, and as the expression of exalted enthusiasm; funeral dances propitiate either death, or the departed soul. As civilisation advances, the expressions of emotion are restrained, and dances lose their meaning and popularity.

The report of the Ethnographic Survey of the United Kingdom was read by Mr. Hartland, who was followed by Mr. J. Gray with observations specially relating to East Aberdeenshire, and by Dr. Garson with similar results from Suffolk. Work has also been begun in Hertfordshire and East Anglia (by the Cambridge Sub-Committee), and is projected in Galloway, and in Caithness, Elgin, and Nairn, by Dr. Walter Gregor.

Mr. C. G. de Betham read a fully illustrated paper on the peculiarities of the Suffolk dialect, which retains an unusual number of Anglo-Saxon idioms; and on the proverbs, traditions, and folk-medicine of the district. Mr. Lingwood exhibited two young ash-trees from Needham Market, which had been split in order to pass sick children through the stem.

Mr. Clodd read a paper on the objects and method of the study of folk-lore, which was followed by a lantern lecture by Prof. A. C. Haddon, on the same subject, exhibiting a series of persons, trees, wells, and other natural objects and prehistoric monuments to which traditions are attached, and illustrating a number of games and ceremonies, in which primitive beliefs and practices are perpetuated.

On Tuesday a formal discussion took place on the results of interference with the civilisation of native races. The subject was briefly introduced by the President, and papers were contributed by Lord Stanmore, Prof. A. C. Haddon (New Guinea), Dr. Cust (India), Dr. H. O. Forbes (Dutch East Indies), Messrs. E. Im Thurm and Darnell Davis (British Guiana), Ling Roth (Tasmania and Australia), and Raynbird (Central India). The course of the debate was summed up by the President as follows. The principle of government should be to protect the natives against their own weakness, the evil influences of debt, and the loss of their land. Rigorous impartiality may be the greatest injustice to the natives, and it is only by dealing with them from their own sense of justice that influence can be obtained. Native customs should not be unnecessarily interfered with, and then only with careful attention to the native point of view. Laws of morality differ in various countries, and what is "right" here is "wrong" there. Changes of detail should be left to the change of native opinion, rather than be enforced by law. It is, for instance, as cruel and disastrous to dress a native of a jungle in our tight, ill-ventilated clothes, as to expose an European naked in a tropical climate. With regard to education, opinions seem to differ; the completely savage brain cannot acquire our ways of thought suddenly without excessive strain and enfeeblement; but native races differ very widely in receptivity and imitativeness. What is above all things necessary is that sympathy of fellow-feeling which at once places one man on an easy and equal footing with another, and which savage races are very quick to perceive and reciprocate.

Rev. Hartwell Jones followed with a philological contribution to the history of primitive warfare in Greece and Italy.

Dr. Garson described a skull found in Thames Valley gravel, which contains palæolithic implements, and claimed it as palæolithic on morphological grounds; supported by Mr. Stopes. Sir John Evans, Prof. Boyd Dawkins, and Mr. Myres disputed the attribution.

A large collection was exhibited of photographs illustrative of the Andamanese and their civilisation, sent by Mr. Maurice Portman.

On Wednesday, Dr. Munro gave a fully illustrated lantern lecture on the newly discovered Neolithic settlement at Butmir in Bosnia. Flint and jasper weapons were manufactured in great variety on the spot, while polished hammers and axes were brought from a distance; and black pottery, with elaborate incised angular ornaments, was extensively made. A principal feature in the site is the occurrence of irregular depressions in the basal clay below the débris. Continental observers considered these to be the floors of huts; but Signor Pigorini and Dr. Munro found traces of piles, and argued that the houses were pile-dwellings, and that the hollows were made to obtain clay for wattle-work and pottery. Sir John Evans supported the pile-dwelling theory, and suggested that dredging might explain the irregularity of the hollows.

Mr. A. J. Evans described a series of primitive European idols, with diagrams and exhibits. Beginning with the marble images of the Greek archipelago, he sketched the area over which kindred figures occur, in Italy, Sicily, Spain, Liguria; and thence into Central Europe and the shores of the Baltic, and even as far as Orkney. The Oriental origin of these figures, formerly maintained, is now strongly contested; they probably testify to an indigenous practice of burying at first actual, and subsequently substituted attendants with deceased persons. Prof. Petrie compared the Maltese seated figures with those of the "New Race" in Egypt.

Dr. Munro presented a further report on the Lake Village of Glastonbury. Amongst the relics found were examples of pottery which were, undoubtedly, highly ornamented specimens of late Celtic art. Other articles unearthed must have been imported two or three centuries before the Roman occupation. Prof. Boyd Dawkins regarded the evidence as conclusive that the Lake Village of Glastonbury might be dated from 200 B.C. to the time of the Roman occupation.

Mr. Theodore Bent contributed a paper on the natives of Southern Arabia.

The Section was closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the President.

MECHANICS AT THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

SECTION G, which is devoted to mechanical science, had an unusually heavy programme at the late Ipswich meeting; indeed it was rather too heavy for the majority of members, for often the proceedings were carried on before a very scanty audience. It is a question whether, in this Section at any rate, a good deal of judicious weeding could not be done. Of course it is understood that "mechanical science" shall be translated as engineering in general—and that is a very good thing, as otherwise many good papers on what is generally known as "civil engineering" would be shut out from the Association altogether—but with a most benevolent desire to give all branches of applied science a hearing, one cannot help thinking it would be an advantage to every one concerned—especially the authors—if some proffered contributions were returned with thanks. The fact is, an exercise of the selective faculty, and perhaps a little more callousness to the demands made by the sensitiveness of authors, would do much towards rendering the proceedings in Section G more bearable than they have been for some time past.

There was, however, a good deal that was interesting and distinctly valuable in the proceedings of the Section at this year's meeting. The pity was that it should have been often wasted

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